

庭野平和財団 理事長

Chairman, The Niwano Peace Foundation

長沼基之

Motoyuki Naganuma



この度、第6回の庭野平和賞の贈呈式を、京都の地で挙行できる運びと相成りました。これも偏に関係各位のご協力の賜と深く感謝申し上げます次第でございます。

候補者の選考に際しましては、公正を原則として審査することに留意してまいりましたが、今回初の日本人による受賞となりましたことは、誠に感慨深いものがございます。

今回の受賞者選定に際しましては、121カ国、794名の方に推薦をご依頼申し上げ、寄せられました候補者の中から、世界の諸宗教6人で構成されます審査委員会で厳正に審査の結果、天台座主山田恵諦猥下と決定したのでございます。

猥下は一時は固く辞退されましたが、世界の審査委員各位がござって選出されましたように、今日までの猥下の歩みは、万人の認めるところでございます。

昭和44年以来提唱してこられました一隅を照らす運動は、今や仏性開頭の仏意に基づき、人と人との相互信頼の精神を高揚する実践行として広く認識されるに至りました。

一方、世界宗教者平和会議等世界各地で開催される諸宗教者による会合には積極的にご出席下され、平和への情熱を傾注されました。また、アッジに灯された平和の祈りの灯を、消滅させてはならじと東奔西走され比叡山へ、そして本年1月のメルボルンへと受け継がれることになったのでございます。

猥下のこのようなご高齢の身をも顧みられぬ不惜身命の努力のお姿は、まさに宗教指導者の師表として、世人の賛嘆と敬慕の念を集めております。

猥下に第6回の庭野平和賞をお受け頂きますことは、当財団にとりまして甚大なる励ましであり、冥加に尽きるものでございます。今後ともご理解とご支援を賜りますようお願い申し上げます。

On the Selection of the Recipient of the Sixth Niwano Peace Prize

I wish to begin by conveying the Niwano Peace Foundation's heartfelt thanks to all who have made it possible to hold the award ceremony for the sixth Niwano Peace Prize in Kyoto. We are also deeply moved that for the first time a Japanese has been chosen to receive the prize.

Each year's recipient is selected through the fair and impartial screening of many candidates. His Eminence Etai Yamada, chief abbot of the Tendai sect of Buddhism, was selected by a six-member multifaith screening committee on the basis of rigorous review of nominations solicited from 794 people in 121 countries. At first Etai Yamada refused the award, but was finally prevailed upon to accept it when it was pointed out that his selection reflected the committee members' unanimous decision and worldwide recognition of his achievements as a man of religion and peace.

The "Light Up a Corner of the World Movement" in Japan, which Etai Yamada inaugurated in 1969, is well known today for helping people cultivate a spirit of mutual trust by awakening to their own buddha-nature and its potential. Nor have his efforts been limited to his own country. He has devoted himself ardently to the cause of peace, participating actively in the World Conference on Religion and Peace and other interfaith peace forums around the world. He has also exerted extraordinary efforts to keep the torch of prayer for peace lit at Assisi in 1986 from being quenched, conveying it first to Mount Hiei, the seat of Tendai Buddhism, in 1987, and then this year to Melbourne, the site of the fifth assembly of the WCRP.

The way in which Etai Yamada has thrown himself body and spirit into selfless service in the cause of prayer and peace, regardless of his advanced years, has made him a model religious leader and earned him universal admiration and respect. To the Foundation, his acceptance of the sixth Niwano Peace Prize is both an encouragement and a blessing.